



# The Ruskin Update

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## Variety of Ruskin Bills Go to the Governor

*This is a partial list of the bills from Assemblymember Ira Ruskin that passed the Legislature and now head to the Governor's desk for his signature.*

### Green Buildings

AB 35, Assemblymember Ruskin's legislation to make all state buildings "green," passed both houses of the legislature and now goes before Governor Schwarzenegger.

"My bill will not only benefit the environment and reduce the state's impact on global warming; it will save the state considerable taxpayer dollars over the long term. AB 35 is smart fiscal and environmental policy," Assemblymember Ruskin remarked.

AB 35 would require new environmentally sensible standards for all state government buildings constructed and renovated after July 2010.

### Removing Abandoned Vehicles From Neighborhoods

Assemblymember Ira Ruskin successfully passed AB 468 out of both houses of the Legislature on September 10<sup>th</sup>. AB 468 is sponsored by the San Carlos Police Department and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG). San Carlos Police Chief, Greg Rothaus, brought this legislation to Assemblymember Ruskin to address a problem that San Carlos and many other cities face, removing the blight of abandoned vehicles.

"This bill works to ensure the beauty of our

neighborhoods and the integrity of our streets," Assemblymember Ruskin stated. "This legislation guarantees that cities and counties will receive monies from a special existing state fund to remove abandoned vehicles," Ruskin continued. "My roots are in local government. I know how important this is."

"The abandoned vehicle problem in our communities is not just a nuisance issue; it's a real quality of life issue," said Chief Rothaus. "Without this bill, we risk losing a valuable tool that has a proven track record of improving the quality of life in our communities."

### Wildlife Protection

Another bill by Ruskin, AB 828, will protect critical wildlife habitat and promote better infrastructure planning by directing the Department of Fish and Game to work with multiple stakeholders to identify where wildlife corridors exist. Front-end knowledge of critical habitats such as wildlife corridors will assist these agencies in their planning efforts to avoid expensive plan alterations later in the process. This will save the state and private entities millions of dollars in project costs.

"California is a rapidly expanding state. We need to be aware of the impacts development has and plan accordingly to protect the wildlife in this state. AB 828 will allow the state to preserve wildlife and avoid costly court disputes over this issue," Ruskin said.

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## East Palo Alto Office Hours

Assemblymember Ira Ruskin has regular office hours every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the East Palo Alto City Hall. The office will be staffed between 2pm and 5pm and is located on the second floor near American Water Services.

Assemblymember Ruskin's office is available to assist with a variety of issues, including government forms, Department of Motor Vehicles issues, Medicare and Medi-Cal, State Franchise Tax Board matters, consumer protection information, state agency info, and legislative information.

## Fall Food Drive

Food drives are often associated with the holiday season, but hunger unfortunately is a problem in our community year-round. Assemblymember Ira Ruskin will be hosting a food drive from now until October 19th. All donations from the food drive will be sent to the Second Harvest Food Bank and will be distributed to families and individuals in our community.

We prefer nutritious and non-perishable foods. To donate, please drop off food items in Assemblymember Ruskin's district office between 9am and 5pm – please see the contact information below.